



**Dwight Landreneau**  
Secretary

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries  
Post Office Box 98000  
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000  
(225) 765-2800

**Kathleen Babineaux Blanco**  
Governor

**LDWF Compensation Rates For Impacts to Water Bottoms on Public Oyster Seed Grounds,  
Public Oyster Seed Reservations, and Public Oyster Tonging Areas**

**November 4, 2003**

Compensation rates are based on the cost of replacing one cubic yard of cultch material. The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Socioeconomic Research and Development Section (Socioeconomics Section) requested and obtained cost estimates from four potential suppliers. Some of these firms were unable to assure the employment of equipment and the distribution of material that fit the Department's established reef management practices and were excluded from consideration.

The Marine Fisheries Division requested that the Socioeconomics Section obtain estimates for three areas, one east and two west of the Mississippi. These costs cover only the purchase, delivery, and deposition of cultch materials. They do not include administrative expenses, surveying expenses, overhead, and other expenses incurred by the Department.

**East of the Mississippi**

Breton Sound: (One Bid):  
Cost per cubic yard = \$40

**West of the Mississippi**

Terrebonne Basin and Barataria Basin (Three Bids)  
Cost per cubic yard = \$51

Vermilion and Atchafalaya Bays and Calcasieu Lake(Three Bids)  
Cost per cubic yard = \$57

**This Oyster Shell Compensation Rate Schedule, created in 2003, will be revisited, reassessed, and revised as needed.**

Type	Description	Compensation Rate	West of the Mississippi	
			East of the Mississippi	Barataria Basin and Terrebonne Basin
			Breton Sound	Vermilion and Atchafalaya Bays and Calcasieu Lake
<b>I</b>	Barren (Non-Supportive)	1 cubic yards per acre	\$40.00 per acre	\$57.00 per acre
<b>II</b>	Barren Yet Supportive	50 cubic yards per acre	\$2,000 per acre	\$2,850 per acre
<b>III(a)</b>	Reef	187 cubic yards per acre	\$7,293 per acre	\$10,659 per acre
<b>III(b)</b>	Reef with Live Oysters <sup>+</sup>	187 cubic yards per acre plus three-year average dockside value of live oysters <sup>++</sup>	\$7,923 per acre plus value per sack of oysters	\$10,659 per acre plus value per sack of oysters
<p>+ The quantity of live oysters will be determined by a water bottom assessment</p> <p>++ The three-year average dockside value of a pound of oyster meat is the quotient of the summation of the current-dollar dockside value of Louisiana's commercial oyster harvest for the three previous year divided by the summation of the volume of Louisiana commercial oyster meat harvests for the previous three years, according to National Marine Fisheries Service data. Multiplying the three-year average dockside value of a pound of oyster meat by 6.47 pounds of meat per sack produces the three-year average dockside value per sack of oysters. (An estimation for 2003 is attached)</p>				
<b>The Oyster Shell Compensation Rate Schedule will be revisited, reassessed, and revised as needed.</b>				

**The three-year average dockside value per sack of oysters: 2003**

1. The three-year average dockside value per pound of oyster meat =

$$= \frac{\text{(The summation of the current-dollar dockside value of the Louisiana commercial oyster harvest: 2000 – 2002)}}{\text{(The summation of the volume of oyster meat of Louisiana's commercial oyster harvest: 2000 – 2002)}}$$

$$\frac{\$24,098,427 + \$27,425,644 + \$30,275,812}{11,512,044 \text{ lb} + 13,183,942 \text{ lb} + 13,955,644 \text{ lb.}} = \frac{\$81,799,833}{38,651,630 \text{ lb}} = \$2.12 \text{ per pound}$$

2. The three-year average dockside value per sack of oysters =

(The three-year average dockside value per pound of oyster meat) x (6.47 lbs. per sack) =

$$= (\$ 2.12 \text{ per lb}) \times (6.47 \text{ lbs./sack})$$

$$= \$13.72 \text{ per sack}$$

Data are derived from the National Marine Fisheries Service estimates for Louisiana's commercial oyster harvest

Year	Species	Metric Tons	Pounds	\$
2000	OYSTER, EASTERN	5,221.8	11,512,044	24,098,427
2001	OYSTER, EASTERN	5,980.2	13,183,942	27,425,644
2002	OYSTER, EASTERN	6,330.2	13,955,644	30,275,812
GRAND TOTALS:	-	17,532.3	38,651,630	81,799,883